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FOR FUNSETH FROM S/PRS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: TRAVELLING PRESS REPORTAGE, TUESDAY MORNING,
 FEBRUARY 17.

NO. 1

NEWSPAPERS

(1) WASHPOST (OMANG FROM CARACAS, PAGE 1) -- "SECRETARY KISSINGER PAID VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT PEREZ A SMALL COMPLIMENT BY ARRIVING NEARLY HALF AN HOUR EARLY FOR THEIR MEETING, THE FIRST OF KISSINGER'S MUCH-DELAYED VISIT TO SIX LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES.

"... KISSINGER REAFFIRMED THE 'VERY SPECIAL TIES' BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. BUT IT IS LIKELY TO TAKE MORE THAN COMPLIMENTS TO PATCH UP HEMISPHERIC RELATIONS. . .

"KISSINGER'S VISIT TO LATIN AMERICAN . . IS AN EFFORT TO PICK UP THE TATTERED THREADS OF THE SO-CALLED 'NEW DIALOGUE' THAT HE LAUNCHED IN 1974. . . HERE AND IN MOST OF THE CONTINENT THE MAIN QUESTION SEEMS TO BE WHY HE IS COMING NOW.

U.S.-LATIN RELATIONS ARE RIDDLED WITH IRRITANTS, SHARPENED IN RECENT DAYS OVER PAYOFF SCANDALS INVOLVING NORTH AMERICAN COMPANIES, . . AND THESE WILL MAKE UP THE SUBSTANCE OF THE TALKS KISSINGER HAS SCHEDULED.

"THE TRIP HAS BEEN POSTPONED AT LEAST FOUR TIMES. . . ALTHOUGH LATIN COMMENTATORS SAID IT WAS UNDERSTANDABLE, THE POSTPONEMENTS UNDERLINED THE FEELING AMONG DIPLOMATS AND POLITICIANS HERE THAT U.S. FOREIGN POLICY STILL TAKES LATIN AMERICA FOR GRANTED AND THAT KISSINGER HAS NO REAL INTEREST IN CHANGING THE STATUS QUO.

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"... KISSINGER IS EXPECTED TO DEAL . . IN AT LEAST FOUR AREAS:

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"-- RELATIONS BETWEEN THE U.S. AND THE THIRD WORLD . . HAVE BECOME ENTANGLED WITH THE CUBAN MILITARY INVOLVEMENT IN ANGOLA. . . LATIN LEADERS ARE CERTAIN TO SEEK KISSINGER'S VIEWS OF THE POSSIBLE U.S. RESPONSE TO ANY OVERT CUBAN ACTION HERE. KISSINGER HAS SAID HE DOES NOT PLAN TO MAKE CUBA OR ANGOLA A FOCAL POINT OF HIS VISIT. . .

"... KISSINGER DOES NOT INTEND TO MAKE AN ISSUE OF THE PANAMA CANAL TREATY NEGOTIATIONS. LATIN AMERICA IS VIRTUALLY UNANIMOUS IN SUPPORTING PANAMA'S POSITION . . AGAINST WHAT THEY SEE AS UNREALISTIC U.S. EFFORTS TO RETAIN CONTROL OVER THE COUNTRY ITSELF.

"-- U.S. MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS AND THEIR BEHAVIOR . . HAVE COME UNDER INCREASING FIRE. . . . THE ORIGINAL 'NEW DIALOGUE' AGENDA HAD AS ONE OF ITS PRIME ITEMS THE ELABORATION OF SOME LEGISLATED CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MULTINATIONALS, . . AND KISSINGER IS SURE TO BE ASKED ABOUT PROGRESS ON THIS.

"-- LATINS TEND TO SEE U.S. TRADE AND PRICING POLICIES AS EXPLOITATIVE AND BACKED BY VEILED THREATS AGAINST ANY NATION THAT TRIES TO CHANGE TO SITUATION. . .

"... MOST LATIN COUNTRIES . . FEAR REPRISALS FROM ANY PRICE INCREASES . . .

"... SPECIFIC TALKS ON OIL INVOLVING PRICE, SALES AND THE FUTURE ARE EXPECTED TO DOMINATE DISCUSSIONS HERE. . .

"-- THE FOREIGN TRADE BILL PROVISION ON OPEC . . WAS VIEWED AS A SLAP IN THE FACE OF THE ENTIRE CONTINENT SINCE THESE NATIONS DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE OIL BOYCOTT OF 1973.

"FURY OVER BEING CARELESSLY INCLUDED AS THE SUBJECT OF CONGRESSIONAL WRATH LED DIRECTLY TO THE CANCELLATION LAST YEAR OF THE PREVIOUS ATTEMPT TO RENEW THE 'NEW DIALOGUE' . . . KISSINGER PROMISED IN JANUARY 1975 TO PRESS CONGRESS FOR AN AMENDMENT TO REMOVE THAT SECTION, AND HE IS EXPECTED TO REPORT ON ANY PROGRESS."

(2) BALTSUN (TREWITT FROM CARACAS -- "SECRETARY KISSINGER ARRIVED . . PREPARED TO WARN LATIN AMERICANS THAT THEY MAY BE NEXT AFTER CUBA'S SUCCESS IN ANGOLA.

"... CUBA IS KNOWN TO BE HIGH ON THE SECRETARY'S LIST OF SUBJECTS FOR DISCUSSION.

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"... IT WAS A RED CARPET WELCOME. BUT . . THERE WERE REAL DIFFERENCES TO BE DISCUSSED. . . THE MOST ACUTE IS THE EXCLUSION OF VENEZUELA, LIKE ECUADOR, FROM PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT IN THE U.S. TRADE ACT OF 1974. . .

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"... THE STATUS OF PREFERENCES IS RELATED ALSO TO THE MORE CHRONIC PROBLEMS IN BILATERAL RELATIONS. SOME INVOLVE THE DELICATE BUSINESS OF WRAPPING UP COMPENSATION TO U.S. FIRMS FOR VENEZUELA'S NATIONALIZATION OF THE OIL AND IRON ORE INDUSTRIES. OTHERS TURN ON THE AVAILABILITY OF U.S. TECHNOLOGY. . . VENEZUELA, LIKE OTHER LATIN COUNTRIES, REPRESENTS WHAT IT REGARDS AS LACK OF SOPHISTICATED ATTENTION FROM THE GIANT TO THE NORTH.

"... THE SECRETARY COULD DO SOMETHING ABOUT THE LACK OF ATTENTION SIMPLY BY BEING HERE. HE COULDN'T PROMISE MUCH ON THE ISSUES THAT REQUIRE LEGISLATION SUCH AS THE TRADE PREFERENCES.

"THAT PROBLEM WILL BECOME MORE ACUTE AS HE CONTINUES HIS TOUR. . . HIS HANDICAP WILL BE MOST DIFFICULT IN COSTA RICA, WHERE HE WILL MEET OTHER CENTRAL AMERICAN LEADERS WHOSE GOVERNMENTS WANT MORE U.S. HELP GENERALLY.

"HIS INABILITY TO MAKE PROMISES WILL INTERFERE WITH HIS LARGER STRATEGIC GOAL TO KEEP LATIN AMERICA GENUINELY NEUTRAL OR ON THE SIDE OF THE U.S. . .

"THAT IS WHERE CUBA COMES IN. . . MR. KISSINGER WILL BE INVITING LATIN GOVERNMENTS TO CONTEMPLATE MR. CASTRO'S INTENTIONS IF HIS TROOPS RETURN (FROM ANGOLA) VICTORIOUS. HBA DID NOT COME TO LATIN AMERICA ON A VENDETTA AGAINST CUBA, . . . BUT WHAT HAS HAPPENED IN AFRICA IS A GRAVE GEOPOLITICAL REALITY."

(3) NYTIMES (NO BYLINE, FROM CARACAS) -- "SECRETARY KISSINGER BEGAN HIS TRIP TO LATIN AMERICA IN VENEZUELA WITH HEAVY EMPHASIS ON OIL PRICES EXPECTED IN TALKS WITH OFFICIALS.

"KISSINGER SAID AFTER ARRIVING THAT WHILE THERE WERE ISSUES ON WHICH 'WE MAY DISAGREE, THROUGH PATIENCE AND MUTUAL TRUST WE CAN OVERCOME THESE AS SOVEREIGN STATES.'

"... KISSINGER'S ARRIVAL . . . WAS MET WITH CRITICAL COMMENTS IN THE LEFT-WING PRESS. BUT OFFICIALS SAID THEY WERE PREPARED FOR BUSINESS-LIKE TALKS.

"'IT IS TIME THAT WE HAD A PERSONAL CONTACT,' SAID PRESIDENT PEREZ."

(4) CHITRIB (UPI BYLINE FROM WASHINGTON; NO MACLEAN) -- "SECRETARY KISSINGER LEFT ON A LATIN AMERICAN TOUR AS THE U.S. EMBASSY IN CARACAS DENIED A CUBAN NEWS AGENCY REPORT THAT THE EMBASSY HAD BEEN BOMBED.

"... SOME LATIN AMERICAN LEADERS THOUGHT THE SECRETARY WAS OVERDUE IN THEIR REGION. THE CURRENT TRIP WAS DESIGNED WITH THAT IN MIND. HE MAY MAKE A SECOND TRIP . . . TO ATTEND THE 6TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE OAS, (AND) HE MAY VISIT ARGENTINA AFTER THE OAS CONFERENCE.

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"... MOST VENEZUELAN SOURCES DO NOT EXPECT MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS IN TALKS BETWEEN KISSINGER AND PRESIDENT PEREZ ON ... THE U.S. TRADE LAW AND THE PANAMA CANAL NEGOTIATIONS."

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(5) WASHSTAR (O'LEARY FROM CARACAS, PAGE 3) -- O'LEARY BEGINS PIECE WITH LENGTHY CONTRAST BETWEEN NIXON'S 1958 VENEZUELAN RECEPTION AND SECRETARY KISSINGER'S TODAY, NOTING "THERE WAS NOTHING IN CARACAS ... REMOTELY RESEMBLING THE MOB ATTACK ON NIXON. ..." SECRETARY WAS GIVEN "MAJOR PORTIONS" OF VENEZUELAN PRESS FRONT PAGES AND "RED-CARPET WELCOME" FROM GOVERNMENT. HOWEVER, SAYS O'LEARY, "THIS IS NOT TO SAY VENEZUELA IS DEVOID OF PERSONS ... ANGRY AT KISSINGER," -- I.E., LEFTISTS CONDEMNING EVERYTHING U.S. STANDS FOR, NATIONALISTS OFFENDED AT U.S. CONGRESS' EXCLUSION OF VENEZUELA AND ECUADOR FROM TRADE PREFERENCES, AND TOURISTS PREEMPTED FROM CARACAS HILTON BY SECRETARY'S PARTY.

O'LEARY CONTINUES: "BUT THIS IS A DIFFERENT VENEZUELA FROM THE TURBULENT COUNTRY THAT NIXON CAME TO VISIT IN 1958. ... THE NEW VENEZUELA ... IS NOT REALLY BEING HURT BY THE EXCLUSION FROM U.S. TRADE PREFERENCES. THIS SCATTERGUN COUNTER-ATTACK AGAINST THE OPEC COUNTRIES HAS PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT, BUT NOTHING MORE ...

"KISSINGER, ACCORDING TO A SENIOR U.S. OFFICIAL, IS HERE TO ASSURE PEREZ THAT THE FORD ADMINISTRATION IS MAKING EVERY EFFORT TO PERSUADE CONGRESS TO REMOVE THE ODIUS TRADE BARRIER FROM VENEZUELA AND ECUADOR. KISSINGER WILL REMIND PEREZ THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT ENDORSES THE AMENDMENT NOW BEFORE THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE ...

"IF CUBA COMES UP, KISSINGER WILL DISCUSS THAT WITH PEREZ, TOO. THE SENIOR OFFICIAL CONTENTS THAT KISSINGER IS NOT HERE TO MOBILIZE A WESTERN HEMISPHERE CRUSADE AGAINST FIDEL CASTRO BECAUSE OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CUBAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE FIGHTING IN ANGOLA.

"THE SENIOR OFFICIAL ... SAID THE U.S. IS PROFOUNDLY CONCERNED ABOUT WHAT CUBA IS DOING AND THAT IT IS NOT GOING TO BE A TRIVIAL MATTER IF CUBA DOES IT AGAIN.

"(ALTHOUGH) LATIN NATIONS ARE UNEASY ABOUT THE CUBANS' SENDING ... ARMED FORCES TO AFRICA, THE SENIOR OFFICIAL SAID HE DOUBTED THERE WAS ANYTHING THE LATINS COULD DO TO DISCOURAGE CASTRO. THE U.S., HE SAID, NO LONGER CONSIDERS CUBA A WESTERN HEMISPHERE PROBLEM BUT A WORLD PROBLEM.

"I HAVE SAID WE WILL NOT ACCEPT IT AGAIN," HE DECLARED WHEN ASKED WHAT THE U.S. MIGHT DO ABOUT CUBA'S MILITARY ADVENTURING. ...

"THE CUBAN ADVENTURE IN ANGOLA WOULD HAVE BACKFIRED ON CASTRO IF IT HAD BEEN AS COSTLY AS SOME OFFICIALS SAY IT COULD HAVE BEEN, SHOULD HAVE BEEN AND WOULD HAVE BEEN IF THE UNITED STATES HAD BEEN IN A POSITION TO DO MORE THAN SEND CASH WHILE CUBA WAS SENDING TROOPS. THE CUBAN SITUATION

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TION DOMESTICALLY MIGHT HAVE BEEN DIFFERENT IF THEY HAD BEEN BOGGED DOWN FOR A YEAR IN A VIET-NAM SITUATION INSTEAD OF QUICK, DECISIVE ACTION. . ."

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(6) LATIMES (JOHNSTON FROM CARACAS, PAGE 4) -- ". . . THE FIRST LEG OF THE LATIN TRIP -- LONG-PROMISED AND SO DELAYED THAT IT HAD COME TO BE A MINOR SYMBOL OF NORTHERN NEGLECT OF THE SOUTH -- PROMISES TO BE BOTH PRAGMATIC AND, IN KISSINGER'S CAREFULLY MODULATED USE OF THE TERM, 'FRIENDLY.'

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"KISSINGER EXPECTS NO MAJOR RESTATEMENTS OF U.S. POLICY. . HE SEEMS CONFIDENT THAT THE LATIN AMERICAN LEADERS WILL NOT DEMAND . . A SINGLE GRAND FORMULA THAT HAS SO OFTEN FAILED IN THE PAST.

"THUS KISSINGER'S HOPE SEEMS TO BE THAT THE MAJOR ISSUES WILL BE TAKEN UP IN TURN, DISCUSSED CALMLY, . . AND SEPARATED FROM THE SLOGANEERING. . . SOME OF THESE ARE:

"-- NORTH-SOUTH ECONOMICS. (VENEZUELA, OPEC AND CONGRESS)

"-- PANAMA CANAL. NEGOTIATION OF A NEW TREATY HAS BECOME A SYMBOL OF THE REDEFINITION OF U.S.-LATIN RELATIONS. . . KISSINGER IS HOPING . . LATIN AMERICA WILL RECOGNIZE THE CANAL AS AN ISSUE OF IRRATIONAL PROPORTIONS FOR CONSERVATIVE REPUBLICANS SUPPORTING REAGAN AND THAT THE WHOLE QUESTION SHOULD BE DORMANT UNTIL AFTER THE PRIMARY SEASON.

"-- CUBA. CUBA NO LONGER 'A DIVISIVE ISSUE' . . BUT NORMALIZATION BETWEEN THE U.S. AND CUBA HAS BEEN HALTED BY CUBAN MEDDLING IN PUERTO RICO AND CUBAN FORCE IN ANGOLA. KISSINGER . . HOPES THE ANOMALY OF A CUBAN ARMY FIGHTING IN A CIVIL WAR THOUSANDS OF MILES AWAY WILL HAVE AN IMPACT ELSEWHERE IN THE HEMISPHERE.

"ALL OF THESE ISSUES WERE POINTS OF CONFRONTATION, AND PERHAPS KISSINGER'S HOPES THAT THEY CAN NOW BE DEALT WITH IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND PATIENCE ARE UNFOUNDED.

"BUT IT IS A FACT THAT THE MILITANCY WHICH VENEZUELA, PERU AND OTHER RAW-MATERIAL PRODUCERS WERE SHOWING TWO YEARS AGO HAS BEGUN TO EVAPORATE.

(7) CHICAGO DAILY NEWS IS NOT YET AVAILABLE. WE ARE WORKING ON ARRANGEMENTS TO HAVE GRUENBERG ITEMS TELECOPIED FROM WASHINGTON BUREAU TO US EACH MORNING.

WIRES

1. UPI (WALTE): KISSINGER HAS BEGUN HIS . . . LATIN AMERICAN TOUR WITH A MEETING WITH VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ ON THE KEY ISSUES OF OIL AND TRADE.

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THE SECRETARY PLANNED TO DELIVER A MAJOR POLICY SPEECH ON WASHINGTON'S HEMISPHERIC RELATIONS . . .

KISSINGER'S 36-HOUR STAY IN CARACAS HAS BEEN FREE OF ANTI-AMERICAN INCIDENTS, ALTHOUGH UNIVERSITY STUDENTS DEMONSTRATING ABOUT AN UNRELATED MATTER MONDAY SHOUTED ANTI-U.S. SLOGANS WHEN CONFRONTED BY POLICE.

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SHORTLY AFTER HIS ARRIVAL, KISSINGER WENT TO THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE FOR THE FIRST OF AT LEAST THREE MEETINGS WITH PEREZ...

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VENEZUELAN SOURCES TOLD UPI THE VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT PUT SOME 50 MEMBERS OF AN EXTREME LEFT-WING GROUP CALLED "RED FLAG" IN PROTECTIVE CUSTODY SOME 24 HOURS BEFORE KISSINGER'S ARRIVAL.

2. AP (FREED): KISSINGER IS TELLING VENEZUELAN LEADERS NOT TO GET THEIR HOPES UP FOR A QUICK END TO THEIR NATION'S EXCLUSION FROM U.S. TRADE PREFERENCES.

U.S. OFFICIALS SAID TRADE WAS ONE OF THE MAJOR TOPICS SCHEDULED FOR A WORKING BREAKFAST KISSINGER HAD TODAY WITH PRESIDENT PEREZ.

KISSINGER'S MESSAGE FOR THIS FIRST STOP WAS THAT HE STRONGLY SUPPORTS TRADE PREFERENCES FOR VENEZUELA. BUT HE SAID HE CAN DO NO MORE THAN HOPE CONGRESS WILL ACT FAVORABLY IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

KISSINGER WAS TO OUTLINE THE MAIN THEME OF HIS TOUR -- HEMISPHERIC RELATIONS -- LATER TODAY IN A SPEECH TO A GROUP OF AMERICAN AND VENEZUELAN SCHOLARS, POLITICIANS AND BUSINESSMEN IN A MEETING CALLED THE SECOND SYMPOSIUM.

A SENIOR AMERICAN OFFICIAL TOLD REPORTERS ON KISSINGER'S FLIGHT FROM WASHINGTON TO CARACAS THAT THE SECRETARY WOULD PUT PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON THE ROLE OF THE UNITED STATES AS IT AFFECTS THE GROWING DESIRE OF LATIN AMERICA TO JOIN WITH OTHER LESS INDUSTRIALIZED NATIONS IN THE THIRD WORLD. HE SAID WASHINGTON REALIZES LATIN AMERICA SEEKS A DESTINY OF ITS OWN BUT HOPES IT WILL REFLECT A SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE U.S.

RADIO/TV

ABC -- DUNSMORE DOES NOT REPORT FIRST PERSON, BUT STEVE BELL, "GOOD MORNING AMERICA" REPORTS, "KISSINGER EXPECTED TO OUTLINE NEW PROGRAM OF INTER-AMERICAN RELATIONS" IN MAJOR SPEECH. PROGRAM "WILL BE BASED ON SEPARATE PLANS AND POLICIES TO BE SHARED WITH EACH NATION, RATHER THAN A SINGLE, BROAD INTER-AMERICAN POLICY AS IN THE PAST."

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NBC -- NO VALERIANI. LEW WOOD, "TODAY SHOW", SAYS OF SPEECH, "MR. KISSINGER WILL BE DISCUSSING WAYS TO BOLSTER THE MAIN THEME OF HIS VISIT. . . HEMISPHERIC FRIENDSHIP." IDENTIFIES AUDIENCE AS GROUP OF U.S. AND VENEZUELAN SCHOLARS, POLITICIANS AND BUSINESSMEN.

CBS RADIO -- MANITZAS FROM CARACAS: AS AN INDICATION THAT BILATERAL TALKS BETWEEN THE U.S. AND VENEZUELA ARE NOT PROGRESSING FAVORABLY, VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT PEREZ DECIDED AT THE LAST MOMENT NOT TO TOAST PUBLICLY AT HIS DINNER THE GUEST OF HONOR, SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER. A VENEZUELAN OFFICIAL SAID, IN HIS WORDS, 'IT WAS YES, THEN NO, THEN MAYBE, AND FINALLY, NO PUBLIC TOAST.' BUT NO REASON WAS GIVEN OFFICIALLY.

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"KEY POINTS UNDER DISCUSSION ARE THAT. ... KISSINGER WANTS VENEZUELA TO LOWER ITS PRICE OF OIL, MOST OF WHICH IS EXPORTED TO THE U.S. VENEZUELA REFUSES TO BREAK WITH ITS FELLOW MEMBERS OF THE OIL EXPORTERS BLOC, OPEC, AND FEELS THE U9S. HAS NOT BEEN FAIR IN ITS TRADE AGREEMENTS. MORE TALKS ARE PLANNED TODAY BETWEEN PEREZ AND KISSINGER."

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